



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities
and Substance Abuse Services

Michael F. Easley., Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Richard Visingardi, Ph.D., Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Area Directors

From: Richard J. Visingardi, Ph.D.

Re: Communication and Coordination Initiative

Date: June 2, 2003

There has been a great deal of discussion in the Long Term Care Cabinet in the Department of Health and Human Services about how we can better coordinate our services in the community. The different Divisions serve a number of individuals throughout the state that need long term care services. The need to build on current and new relationships to better improve the core services in the community is crucial. DHHS Long-Term Care Cabinet is launching such an initiative. Attached is a description of this project and we encourage your area program to be a part of this process. The Division of Aging is leading this initiative, and our Division will be working closely with them along with other Divisions. If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact Dave Peterson in the Administrative Support Section. He can be reached either by email at Dave.Peterson@ncmail.net or telephone at (919) 733-7011.

DP/cr

cc: Secretary Carmen Hooker Odom
Lanier Cansler
James Bernstein
DMH/DD/SAS Executive Leadership Team
Carol Duncan-Clayton
Robin Huffman
Fred Waddle
Patrice Roesler

MAILING ADDRESS:
3018 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-3006

Telephone 919-733-7011
FAX Number 919-733-9455

LOCATION:
Albemarle Building
325 North Salisbury St.
Raleigh, NC

May 23, 2003

DHHS Long-Term Care Cabinet Launches New Initiative to Help Communities Shape Future Services for Older and Disabled Adults

North Carolina counties will soon have the opportunity to participate in an initiative designed to strengthen local services to meet the long-term care (LTC) needs of older and disabled adults and their families. Lynda McDaniel, DHHS Assistant Secretary for Long Term Care and Family Services, says the project represents “a unique local and state partnership that will have our Department assisting two pilot counties and/or multi-county areas in evaluating core LTC services and identifying actions to develop an improved system of care and services.”

The project's name—*A Communications and Coordination Initiative to Strengthen LTC Services*—captures its basic objectives. All DHHS Divisions with LTC responsibilities, including the Division of MH/DD/SAS, will provide significant assistance and guidance to help two local planning teams pilot a year-long process that other communities can use in the future. The initiative should improve the exchange of information and ideas between local and state interests to help address barriers to the effective delivery of LTC services. It should also help strengthen consumer participation in local LTC planning and foster innovative approaches to meeting local LTC needs.

The DHHS LTC Cabinet will select the two volunteer communities through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Volunteer communities must agree to follow two basic components of local LTC planning as recommended by the NC Institute of Medicine in its 2001 Plan (see <http://www.nciom.org/pubs/long-term.html> for details on the 2001 Plan): (1) consider the needs of older and younger disabled adults; and (2) assure representation by the many and varied LTC interests (e.g., institutional and home care, consumer and provider). The two pilot communities will have one year to organize a local team to evaluate the community's core LTC services and develop a strategic action plan based on the local evaluation. A special State Team appointed by the LTC Cabinet will facilitate the work of these two communities by offering evaluation tools, training and technical assistance, access to data, and possible participation in other related LTC projects. At the LTC Cabinet's request, the Division of Aging is coordinating the State Team.

The local planning teams will have *great flexibility* in designing a planning process to meet their community's needs. It is hoped that this comprehensive planning process will help coordinate local planning efforts that are already taking place within communities, thus reducing duplication, increasing efficiency, and promoting cooperation and communication among state and local interests.

DHHS expects to release the RFP for the project in early June. The RFP will be available on the DHHS web site on LTC at www.dhhs.state.nc.us/ltc or by calling 919-733-0440. Applicant communities must designate a lead agent or lead agents to facilitate the local work and must have strong support from their County Commissioners. Proposals will be due by July 23, 2003.

For more information please contact Steve Freedman, Service Operations Section Chief, at the NC Division of Aging. He can be reached at 919-733-0440 or Steve.Freedman@ncmail.net.